We claim:

1. A method comprising:

- providing access to characterizing descriptors as individually correspond to a plurality of discrete selectable items of data;

- providing at least a first and a second characterizing descriptor filter;

- simultaneously displaying:

    - a first plurality of user-selectable characterizing descriptor filter criteria as corresponds to the first characterizing descriptor filter;

    - a second plurality of user-selectable characterizing descriptor filter criteria as corresponds to the second characterizing descriptor filter;

    - at least a portion of the characterizing descriptors as corresponds to a present setting of the first and second plurality of user-selectable characterizing descriptor filter criteria.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein displaying at least a portion of the characterizing descriptors as corresponds to a present setting of the first and second plurality of user-selectable characterizing descriptor filter criteria further comprises not displaying any of the characterizing descriptors as do not correspond to the present setting of the first and second plurality of user-selectable characterizing descriptor filter criteria.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein providing access to characterizing descriptors as individually correspond to a plurality of discrete selectable items of data further comprises providing access to textual characterizing descriptors as individually correspond to a plurality of discrete selectable items of data.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein providing access to characterizing descriptors as individually correspond to a plurality of discrete selectable items of data further comprises providing access to characterizing descriptors as individually correspond to a plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/visual content.

5. The method of claim 4 further comprising:

- simultaneously displaying at least one graphic image as individually corresponds to the at least a portion of the characterizing descriptors as corresponds to a present setting of the first and second plurality of user-selectable characterizing descriptor filter criteria.

6. The method of claim 4 wherein providing access to characterizing descriptors as individually correspond to a plurality of discrete selectable items of data further comprises providing access to characterizing descriptors that comprise at least one of:

- a programming network identifier;
- a broadcast starting time;
- a description of the audio/visual content;
- content media source.

7. The method of claim 4 wherein the plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/visual content are embodied in a plurality of media.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the present setting of the first and second plurality of user-selectable characterizing descriptor filter criteria is selected in response to a remote control device.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein the present setting of the first and second plurality of user-selectable characterizing descriptor filter criteria is selected in response to a remote control device by scrolling through candidate settings of the first and second plurality of user-selectable characterizing descriptor filter criteria.

10. An interactive data display system comprising:

- characterizing descriptors as individually correspond to a plurality of discrete selectable items of data;
- at least a first and a second characterizing descriptor filter;
- control circuitry that simultaneously displays:
    - at least one of a first plurality of user-selectable characterizing descriptor filter criteria as corresponds to the first characterizing descriptor filter;
    - at least one of a second plurality of user-selectable characterizing descriptor filter criteria as corresponds to the second characterizing descriptor filter;
    - at least a portion of the characterizing descriptors as corresponds to a present setting of the first and second plurality of user-selectable characterizing descriptor filter criteria.

11. The interactive data display system of claim 10 further comprising:

- a remote control device for selecting the present setting of the first and second plurality of user-selectable characterizing descriptor filter criteria.

12. An interactive program guide system comprising:

- characterizing descriptors as individually correspond to a plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/visual content;
- at least a first and a second characterizing descriptor filter;
- control circuitry that simultaneously displays:
    - at least one of a first plurality of user-selectable characterizing descriptor filter criteria as corresponds to the first characterizing descriptor filter;
    - at least one of a second plurality of user-selectable characterizing descriptor filter criteria as corresponds to the second characterizing descriptor filter;
    - at least a portion of the characterizing descriptors as corresponds to a present setting of the first and second plurality of user-selectable characterizing descriptor filter criteria.

13. The interactive program guide system of claim 12 further comprising:
- a remote control device for selecting the present setting of the first and second plurality of user-selectable characterizing descriptor filter criteria.

14. The interactive program guide system of claim 13 wherein the remote control device comprises at least one key for scrolling through candidate settings of the first and second plurality of user-selectable characterizing descriptor filter criteria.

15. The interactive program guide system of claim 14 wherein the remote control device further comprises at least one key for moving a focus from one characterizing descriptor filter to another characterizing descriptor filter.

16. The interactive program guide system of claim 12 wherein the control circuitry further simultaneously displays a program of audio/visual content.

17. The interactive program guide system of claim 12 wherein the control circuitry further simultaneously displays a preview of a discrete selectable item of audio/visual content as corresponds to the present setting of the first and second plurality of user-definable characterizing descriptor filter criteria.